



OUT OF THE STORM

JOB

JOB

Term 1	Passage	Title	Preaching Date
Week 1	Various	God Sovereign Over All	24 July 2022
Week 2	Various	Satan - Knowing Your Enemy	31 July 2022
Week 3	Job 1 & 2	In God's Heavenly Court	7 Aug 2022
Week 4	Job 3-7	Comfort Needed But Not Given	14 Aug 2022
Week 5	Job 8-14	What Job and His Friends Get Wrong	21 Aug 2022
Week 6	Job 15-27	What Job and His Friends Get Right	28 Aug 2022
Week 7	Job 28-31	Wisdom and Where to Find it	4 Sept 2022
Week 8	Job 32-37	Pieces of a Bigger Picture	11 Sept 2022
Week 9	Job 38-41	What we Learn When God Speaks	18 Sept 2022
Week 10	Job 42	God - His Verdict and Mercy	25 Sept 2022

The Bible in Two Years

Week	Passage 1	Passage 2	Passage 3
1	Psalms 138	1 Samuel 8:1-22	Acts 2
2	Genesis 3:1-15	2 Samuel 24:1-17	Revelation 12
3	Job 1-2	Ezekiel 28:1-19	Hebrews 2
4	Job 3-7	Lamentations 1-2	Romans 5
5	Job 8-14	Lamentations 3-4	Romans 8
6	Job 15-25	Lamentations 5	Hebrews 4
7	Job 26-28	Ecclesiastes 1	James 3
8	Job 29-37	Psalms 73	Hebrews 12
9	Job 38-41	Isaiah 27	Revelations 20
10	Job 42	Deuteronomy 28	James 5

TERM 3 2022

What is the goal of these notes?

The goal is to grow your ability to read the bible. Bible reading is essential to Christian growth and survival but it's a skill that only develops with practice. Indeed because of the spiritual apathy that's part of our fallen nature the desire to read only grows with practice! The bible is an extraordinary book. It has changed people, nations and the flow of history. That's unsurprising since it's God's book and contains His wisdom for life. Yet, bible reading in some ways is no different to reading any other book. These notes will assist you in developing skills which will increasingly enable you to feed yourself from the bible and help others do the same.

Three ways to use these notes

1. Personal reading

Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day. Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray asking God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

2. Growth Groups

Use the section at the end of each week to prepare for your Growth Group. Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group. Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church. Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

JOB

An Introduction to Job

Why do we suffer? Why does God allow suffering in His world? Is it right for God to let people suffer? Do only bad people suffer? Is there a cosmic battle between good and evil which brings about our suffering? Is our suffering our own fault? Why has God done this to me?

This book introduces us to a man named Job, "blameless and upright, who feared God and shunned evil" (Job 1:1). Despite being one of the good guys, he experiences the most extreme suffering we could imagine. Wealth, possessions, health, children, wife, reputation...all lost! Why has God done this?

As one commentator has said, some questions we can ask about suffering are "armchair" questions, the kind we ask out of a desire to know, yet distanced from any immediate personal struggle. The other are "wheelchair" questions, the kind we ask amidst real, personal and painful suffering. The kind where we cry out to God in anguish, desperate for answers (Ash 2014, 18-19).

The book of Job takes us deeply into the second kind of questions. His struggles with friends and with God will push the boundaries of what we might think appropriate, yet for our encouragement he is ultimately vindicated by God and considered an example of godly perseverance (James 5:11).

Many come to this book seeking answers for their own suffering and some leave disappointed for while Job has much to say about suffering, we will find a mystery at its core. But come to Job with the humility that he himself ultimately displays and you will not be left wanting. It will teach you everything you need to trust a God whose ways are good and right regardless of our own limitations.

3-1-1 Prayer

We all care for friends and family who don't know Jesus and this should be reflected in our prayers. List below the names of 3 such people you can be praying for once a week for one minute.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

GOD SOVEREIGN OVER ALL

An important bible-reading skill is to be able to gather together what is said about any given topic. It is just part of knowing God but it does require some effort. This is always repaid in providing the insight we need to navigate wisely through life. That's our goal in considering God's sovereignty over all.

Week 1: Day 1

READ PSALM 104

1. In verses 10-30, how are God's sovereignty and goodness linked?

Arminianism is an understanding of God's sovereignty which says that God "foreknows" whatever comes to pass but He doesn't control it, especially where our own choices are concerned. "Open theism" is more extreme, denying that God even knows all the details of the future. He can only make educated guesses about them!

2. How do the following passages deny both Arminianism and Open Theism?

- Prov 21:1
- Hebrews 4:12b
- Matt 10:29-30
- Psalm 139:1-3, 16

WEEK 1: VARIOUS

3. Why should we be anxious if God did NOT both know and ordain all things?

4. What questions might God's absolute sovereignty raise for us?

PRAY: God's sovereignty is both humbling and revealing. Indeed we only come to know ourselves when we know God in His goodness and sovereign rule. Give thanks for such a God and pray that knowing this will make us more truly human.

GOD SOVEREIGN OVER ALL

Day 2

READ PSALM 139:1-18

The sovereignty of God is a many-sided attribute of His being which we cannot minimise without losing something intrinsic to who He is.

1. Consider the following attributes of God and indicate which verses illustrate which attribute:

- a. Omnipresence (He is everywhere present)
- b. Omniscience (He knows all things)
- c. Omnipotence (He can do all things).

2. God is not dependent on any other being (ie He has aseity) & He does not change (ie He is immutable) Which verses below describe which of those attributes?

- John 5:21,26
- Malachi 3:6
- Psalm 102:26,27
- 1 Tim 6:16

3. What are two comforting implications of the fact that God is immutable?

PRAY: God has life in Himself and has granted the Son to give this life to others. His immutability means that this gift once given is never rescinded. Thank God for His gift to us!

WEEK 1: VARIOUS

Day 3

READ GENESIS 45:1-11 & 50:15-21

Since God is totally independent, His sovereignty and ours is a contradiction. So too is His free will and our “free will” since ours are enslaved to sin. However God’s sovereignty and human responsibility fit hand in hand even if this is a mystery to us. God works through the wills He’s made so our choices are truly our own.

1, In the passages above, where do you see the following truths affirmed:

- a. God’s will?
- b. Human responsibility?

2, In the following verses, how are God’s will and human responsibility both affirmed?

- a. Luke 22:22
- b. Acts 22:23

3. John 3:16 is a famous verse affirming the importance of our responsibility to believe. But how is God’s sovereignty active behind our belief? (Hint: consider Phil 1:29)

PRAY: God’s sovereignty and human responsibility are a sobering pair! Pray that God will deepen your awareness of what they mean for your life.

GOD SOVEREIGN OVER ALL

Day 4

READ 1 SAMUEL 8:1-22

Does God ever fail to achieve His intention? No never! And yes, sometimes! How can both be true? It depends what we mean by "God's will". If God wills all that happens, how do we explain evil and sin? The answer concerns at least two meanings of that expression "the will of God".

1. In 1 Samuel 8 was God's will done or was it disobeyed? In your explanation consider Deuteronomy 17:14-17.

God has a "preceptive will" ("precepts" for how to live) and a "decretive will" (decrees which can't be overturned). Deuteronomy 17:14-17, written before the events of 1 Samuel 8 tells us that God achieved His decretive will through Israel's sin just as in the death of Jesus.

2. Consider the following expressions of God's will and note beside each whether this particular "will of God" is preceptive, decretive or both.

- Exodus 20:12-17
- Ephesians 4:25-28
- Eph 1:9,10
- 1 Thess 4:3-5
- 1 Tim 2:1-4

3. Comfort, challenge, fear. Which of these does the truth of God's sovereignty most produce in you and why?

PRAY: Praise God for His sovereign goodness that gives His children such confidence.

WEEK 1: VARIOUS

Day 5

READ ISAIAH 10:5-19

If God wills evil does that make Him evil? Never! (James 1:13) He permits evil for His own good purposes and works through the evil intentions of both men and Satan but is never the active cause. This might be called His “permissive will”.

1. In Isaiah 10 list those verses where God:

- a. uses a sinful agent to achieve His purpose
- b. holds that sinful agent accountable

2. God is sovereign over both evil and good but stands behind them in different ways. He permits evil (P), restrains evil (R) and moves people to good (M). Label each verse below as P, R or M.

- Amos 3:6
- Genesis 20:3-6
- Acts 2:23
- 2 Tim 2:25
- Phil 2:12,13

PRAY: God's sovereignty over evil should give us confidence that nothing can ever happen that's outside His control. Pray that you'll be able to honour Him when hard times come.

GOD SOVEREIGN OVER ALL

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In Psalm 104:10-30, how are God's sovereignty and goodness linked? (Day 1)

2. What do the following verses teach about God's sovereignty over evil- that He permits evil restrains evil or moves people to good? (Day 5)

- Amos 3:6
- Genesis 20:3-6
- Acts 2:23
- Isaiah 45:7
- Phil 2:12,13

3. Comfort, challenge, fear. Which of these does the truth of God's sovereignty most produce in you and why? (Day 4)

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

SATAN - KNOWING YOUR ENEMY

"true Christianity is a fight...The true Christian is called to be a soldier, and must behave as such...till the day of his death...He is not meant to live a life of religious ease, indolence, and security...The principal fight of the Christian is with the world, the flesh, and the devil...These are our never-dying foes...so we must either "fight" or be lost..."In time of war it is the worst mistake to underrate your enemy, and try to make a little war."

J.C. Ryle Holiness

Week 2: Day 1

READ GENESIS 3:1-15

We must never forget that Satan is a created being. He is not omniscient, omnipotent or equal to God and his tactics are always the same.

1. List all you find out about Satan from these verses.

2. God's word and His goodness are the object of Satan's temptations. How are these illustrated here?

WEEK 2: VARIOUS

3. 1 John 2:15,16 describes three worldly temptations: the lust of the flesh (desires of the sinful self), the lust of the eyes (seeing and wanting) and the pride of life (confidence in our own resources). Fill in the table below to show How these temptations are shown by the first couple and how they are most commonly reflected in your own life.

Temptation	Seen in Adam & Eve	Experienced by me
Lust of the flesh		
Lust of the eyes		
Pride of life		

PRAY: As we consider the nature of our enemy this week, ask God to enlighten you as to Satan’s strategies and arouse you to the necessity of your fight!

SATAN - KNOWING YOUR ENEMY

Day 2

READ READ 2 PETER 2:4-10 & EZEKIEL 28:1-19

The bible says little about the origin of Satan and his demons or about how they became evil, but it appears that their character is a clue to their fall.

1. What can you learn about Satan and his origins from today's passages?
2. The fact that evil angels are currently "held for judgement" in 2 Pet 2:4 is puzzling given Satan's current activity. How does the analogy in v 9 help with this?
3. Ezekiel 28 is often cited as a passage that speaks of Satan's origin. Although it is about the king of Tyre the imagery likens him to Satan. List all the verses which may fall into this category.
4. What warnings does this passage have for us?

PRAY: Pride is at the heart of all sin. Ask God to show you the reasons for your own pride and protect you from it.

WEEK 2: VARIOUS

Day 3

READ REVELATION 12:1-17

The word “Satan” is not so much a name but a title. He is the “accuser” or “opponent”. Care is needed with this passage. Note that it is NOT speaking of Satan’s much earlier “fall” which we considered yesterday.

1. What names can you find for Satan in this passage?
2. What do you learn about him, his work, his focus and his defeat in this passage?
3. Since Satan is our “accuser” what clue does this provide as to what is required to withstand him? Verse 11 provides another hint.

PRAY: Satan’s temptations are always of the same kind. Ask God for a clear vision of His own goodness so that you don’t fall for Satan’s deceptions.

SATAN - KNOWING YOUR ENEMY

Day 4

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Satan is not omnipotent but he has considerable power. And he is not omniscient but he knows the scriptures and how to distort them.

1. What powers does Satan demonstrate in this passage?

2. In the following verses what powers does he exercise?

- 2 Cor 4:3,4
- 2 Cor 11:3
- 2 Cor 11:14,15
- 2 Cor 12:7
- Luke 8:12

3. Noting Satan's powers, what conclusions can you draw about the best ways to withstand him?

PRAY: Satan's desire is to turn you from Christ hence the need for perseverance. A persevering faith has clarity, depth and discernment so it always clings to the goodness of God. Ask Him to help you develop such a faith.

WEEK 2: VARIOUS

Day 5

READ REVELATION 20:1-10

Most numbers in John's Revelation have a symbolic function. Six, seven, twelve, ten and the number "three and a half". So read such symbol laden apocalyptic language with care.

1. List all the indicators in this passage that Satan is under God's control

In Mark 3:27 Jesus speaks of the "binding of the strong man". In bringing the gospel of free forgiveness, Jesus has bound Satan, limiting his ability to deceive the nations. This is most likely what happens in the "thousand years". But a time will come when he is released. (v 7)

2. God can use Satan's malice for His own good purposes. How does this explain the apparent contradiction between 2 Sam 24:1-4 & 1 Chron 21:1-4?

3. How is this "dual agency" shown in what Paul says about his "thorn in the flesh"? (2 Cor 12:6-9)

4. What does Paul's own example show us about how to respond to God's sovereign use of Satan in our lives?

PRAY: Speaking of God's sovereignty over Satan, Martin Luther once said that "he is always God's Satan!" Thank God for His sovereign goodness and pray that your suffering friends might remember this.

SATAN - KNOWING YOUR ENEMY

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In Genesis 3:1-15 what can you find out about Satan? (Day 1)

2. From the following verses what powers does Satan exercise? (Day 4)

- 2 Cor 4:3,4
- 2 Cor 11:3
- 2 Cor 11:14,15
- 2 Cor 12:7
- Luke 8:12

3. Noting the powers that Satan has, what conclusions can you draw about the best ways to withstand him? (Day 4)

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

IN GOD'S HEAVENLY COURT

The book of Job divides into 3 major parts: An introduction (Job 1 & 2); a conclusion (Job 42:7-19) and a long poetic dialogue in the middle. The introduction in chapters 1 and 2 is central to the mystery of suffering which the book describes.

Week 3: Day 1

READ JOB 1:1-5

1. These verses introduce an extraordinary man, "the greatest man among all the people of the east" i.e. east of the Jordan river. What else do you learn about Job here?

To be blameless (1:1; 1:8 and 2:3) doesn't mean to be sinless. Noah, David, Asa and others in the Old Testament were said to be blameless but not sinless. To be blameless speaks of a person's integrity (eg Job 2:9)

2. Job is introduced as a man greatly blessed by God. What is it about v's 2 & 3 which suggest this? (consider Deut 28)

3. The scene with Job's family tells us that there was no hidden sin to explain what will follow. How is his action for the sake of his children commendable, wise and a possible warning of what is to come?

PRAY: Job's godliness is shown in the way he regularly and proactively intercedes for his children. All of us have some responsibility for the spiritual health of others. Pray for some of them now including your 3-1-1 contacts.

WEEK 3: JOB 1-2

Day 2

READ JOB 1:6-2:7

The action shifts from the earth to the heavenly court where angelic principalities are summoned to give account. What takes place here will remain hidden from Job. In the original language Satan is called ‘the Satan’ i.e. ‘the accuser’.

1. List the examples of repetition in the 3 scenes of this passage.

Scene 1 (1:6-12)	Scene 2 (1:13-22)	Scene 3 (2:1-7)

2. What do you learn of the relationship between God and the Satan in this narrative?

3. The Satan’s cynical claim (1:9 & 2:4,5) is a calculated insult about God’s right to be worshipped. Try to summarise 1:9-11 in these terms.

PRAY: Satan’s claim is that we only worship God for what we can get from Him. May that never be true of us. Ask God to deepen your love for Him.

IN GOD'S HEAVENLY COURT

Day 3

READ JOB 1:13-22

What takes place in these verses is heartbreaking! The drama is captured in the repetition of the words which you saw yesterday, "while he was still speaking".

1. What is this repetition designed to make us feel?
2. What do these verses tell you about the Satan's God-permitted power?
3. Consider Job's response & the narrator's comment on it in v's 20-22. What is significant and admirable about it?

PRAY: Job's reply is defeat for Satan, vindication of God's honour and hope for ordinary human beings like us. Thank God for giving us Job's example.

WEEK 3: JOB 1-2

Day 4

READ JOB 2:8-13

These concluding verses are full of emotion as Job sits on the ash heap, afflicted with boils (2:7; 7:5), emaciation (19:20), sleeplessness (7:4), nightmares (7:14), depression (7:16), failing vision (16:16), putrid breath (19:17) and rotting teeth (19:20)

1. Job's wife will never speak again in this book. In what respect are her words particularly blameworthy?
2. In what way is Job's reply to her wise but gentle?
3. Job's friends have travelled far to see him. In what sense is their response both helpful and unhelpful?

PRAY: We will often have occasion to care for those who suffer. Ask God to make you someone who is able to do this wisely and compassionately.

IN GOD'S HEAVENLY COURT

Day 5

READ JOB 1:1-2:13

In 2 Corinthians 3:14 we were reminded that only in Christ is the “veil” of the Old Testament believer removed. We’ve never really understood an Old Testament book until we’ve read it in the light of Jesus and what He accomplished for us.

1. In what ways does Job remind you of Jesus?
2. In what ways did the sufferings of Jesus arise from the same cause as those of Job? (John 14:30,31)
3. What do Job and Jesus teach you about true worship?

PRAY: As you read the book of Job and consider the mystery it contains, ask God to help you remember Jesus and to grow your love for Him.

WEEK 3: JOB 1-2

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What do you learn about Job in 1:1-5? (Day 1)
2. List the examples of repetition in the 3 scenes of Job 1:6-2:7 (Day 2)
3. What do Job and Jesus teach us about true worship?

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4: JOB 3-7

This week begins the long interchange between Job and his three friends. They are renowned wise men of their age but with ready made answers to the question of suffering. For both them and Job all suffering comes from God's retribution. The morally good are rewarded with blessings and the evil with hardship and suffering. Yet the book of Job will teach that there is a suffering which defies simple answers. Jesus experienced it.

Week 4: Day 1

READ JOB 3

Seven days and nights of silence! There is a time beyond which, silence with a suffering friend, can become awkwardly inhuman. We need the companionship of supportive and sympathetic words, even without answers.

1. Job's painful lament falls into 2 main parts: curse and questions. List below the verse numbers which form each section.

- curses
- questions

Leviathan (v 8) is the satanic figure of chaos, whose future defeat is the high point of God's speech (Chap 41). In mentioning him, Job is ironically close to understanding the book's mystery.

2. In Job 1:10 the Satan spoke of putting a hedge of protection around Job. What does Job mean when he uses that word in v 23?

3. What do we experience in the silence of suffering that makes it so terrible, we might almost prefer death? (See v's 23-26)

PRAY: It's hard to learn to care for the suffering if we've not suffered ourselves. Pray that we will learn from Job so we can help others in need.

COMFORT NEEDED BUT NOT GIVEN

Day 2

READ JOB 4 & 5

Eliphaz is probably the oldest of Job's friends (15:10) and the first to break the silence. He comes from Teman in southern Edom, (4:1) a place renowned for its wisdom. Undoubtedly he was provoked by Job's curses which he saw as an unforgivable attack on God's good creation.

1. Eliphaz' opening speech is as kind as the friends will get. What is there to commend in it?

2. Eliphaz believes that the righteous are rewarded and the wicked will suffer in this life. An idea which all including Job will endorse. What is the basis for this idea in:

- 4:6-11?
- 4:12-16?

Visions and dreams in the Old Testament were often thought to be a message from God but in a universe of principalities and powers Eliphaz should have questioned the source of his dream! Verse 17 is probably best rendered, "Can a mortal be in the right with God?"

3. Can a human being be in the right with God? (Rom 5:1; 8:1)

PRAY: God is not the great fault finder of whom Eliphaz speaks. In reality, a mortal could always be in the right with God by faith. That's our confidence in Jesus. Pray for your 3-1-1 friends to understand that wonderful truth!

WEEK 4: JOB 3-7

Day 3

READ JOB 5

1. After telling Job that it's futile for him (an unrighteous man) to pray in v's 1,2 Eliphaz' argument in this chapter falls into 3 parts. Try to put a title to these below:

- V's 3-7
- V's 8-16
- V's 17-26

2. Again, how does the “wise man” Eliphaz know these things? (V 27)

3. What can we learn from the example of Eliphaz (either good or bad) about how to care for the suffering?

PRAY: We always need to grow in wisdom but also to be aware of the limits of what we know. Ask God to help you in this.

COMFORT NEEDED BUT NOT GIVEN

Day 4

READ JOB 6

Antagonised by the pastoral incompetence of his friends, Job's emotional grief will spiral sharply downward but contrary to the Satan's accusation, his greatest grief will not be the loss of children or blessings but the loss of relationship with God. This is an added heartache for the Christian.

1. Job begins v's 3 & 4 by explaining his impetuous words. What is the cause?

2. The remainder of chapter 6 falls into 2 parts. Try to put a title on these

- V's 5-13
- V's 14-30

3. In v 14 Job is hard on Eliphaz who was trying his best albeit in a clumsy way. What warnings does this passage have for us about our to care for the suffering?

PRAY: Gentleness is the hallmark of our saviour and often comes by experiencing our own weaknesses. Ask God to grow you in gentleness.

WEEK 4: JOB 3-7

Day 5

READ JOB 7

The arguments of Job with these three friends and later with Elihu in chapters 32-37 are written in Hebrew poetry since poetry is well suited to arousing our emotions which are so prominent in the experience of suffering.

1. As on previous days, try to title the two paragraphs of this chapter:

- V's 1-10
- V's 11-21

Job addresses God briefly in v 7 but because he feels he has nothing else to lose, he vents his anger in v's 11ff.

2. Anger is often the first sign of depression. What allegations does Job bring against God in v's 11-21?

James brings a warning against anger: "it does not produce the righteousness that God desires." Yet when the book ends, God will not charge Job with evil in what he says. He is big enough to take it!

3. Have you ever been angry with God? Is there something you learned from that time?

PRAY: Praise God for His compassion. No matter what we think of Him and His silence so far in this book, He knows us, loves us and cares for us in His Son.

COMFORT NEEDED BUT NOT GIVEN

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Eliphaz' opening speech is as kind as the friends will get. What is there to commend in it? (Day 2)

2. Eliphaz believes that the righteous are rewarded and the wicked will suffer in this life. An idea which all including Job have endorsed. What is the basis for this idea in 4:6-11; 4:12-16; 5:27 (Days 2 & 3)

3. What can we learn from the example of Eliphaz (either good or bad) about how to care for the suffering? (Day 3)

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WHAT JOB AND HIS FRIENDS GOT WRONG!

When God’s verdict on this debate comes in Job 42:7 it will bring a great shock for Job’s friends. God finds them to be in the wrong and Job in the right. “I am angry with you for you have not spoken the truth about me as my servant Job has.” This may seem to be a strange conclusion since there is much they did seem to get right. So what did they all get wrong?

Week 5: Day 1

READ JOB 8

1. Consider the opening words of the three friends. How would you describe:
- a. their tone to a suffering friend?
 - b. their assumptions about God? Are these true, false or a mixture?

Friend	Tone of address	Assumptions about God
Bildad (Job 8:1-7)		
Eliphaz (Job 4:1-7)		
Zophar (Job 11:1-6)		

WEEK 5: JOB 8-14

Job and his friends both start with the same idea about God i.e. He rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked and this He does in the visible short term. This idea which is at the heart of the prosperity gospel is the assumption of much Old Testament wisdom literature. (consider Psalm 73 and Ecclesiastes) In verses 8-10, Bildad rests his wisdom on the "understanding" of "former generations".

2. In Job 8 what did Bildad get right & what did he get wrong?

3. How might knowing Jesus, have corrected Bildad's understanding of life, suffering and God's blessing of the righteous?

4. How might knowing Jesus change the way we relate to a suffering believer?

PRAY: Give thanks for Jesus who makes us wise for life. Ask God to deepen in you a gospel-shaped world view.

WHAT JOB AND HIS FRIENDS GOT WRONG!

Day 2

READ JOB 9 & 10

Chapter 9 opens with Job in general agreement with Bildad's worldview- that God, in this life, punishes the evil and rewards the righteous. After all, they say, "God is the sovereign creator of all. Nobody can hinder him from doing what He pleases. So when he brings hardship it MUST be because of a person's sin." Now suddenly, Job's worldview is crumbling.

1. What attributes of God does Job illustrate in v's 2-15?

Rahab who is mentioned in v 13 along with his "cohorts" appears often in ancient near eastern literature as a "chaos monster" and the embodiment of evil. His other name is Leviathan whom we'll meet in chapter 41. These Old Testament "beasts" reappear in Rev 12:9 where we're told they stand for "that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan".

2. In the anguish of his suffering what things does Job get wrong about God in 9:16-35?

Notice Job's conclusion in v 24, drawn by connecting God's sovereignty with what he sees. "If it is not he, then who is it?" Job is on the edge of the mystery of evil but knows nothing of the Satan's role in chapters 1 & 2 so is unable to put it all together.

WEEK 5: JOB 8-14

3. Using information from chapter 10, complete the table to show Job’s faithful beliefs and false conclusions.

Faithful Beliefs	False Conclusions

4. Many years after Job, the apostle Paul wrote about how to order his life when his observations didn't match what he knew of the truth. Write 2 Cor 5:7 in your own words.

PRAY: Since we lack insight about the complexity of the world in which we live we need to trust God as the one great unchangeable truth. Pray that God will help you walk by faith this week and every other.

WHAT JOB AND HIS FRIENDS GOT WRONG!

Day 3

READ JOB 11

Zophar is probably the youngest and most obnoxious of Job's friends. You saw something of this on day 1 in his callous opening words. He is confident, arrogant and happily dispenses simplistic solutions to complex problems. Don't be like him!

1. Consider Zophar's claim in v 4. Is it true at this stage? (9:21; 7:20,21; 10:2,7)

The answer to Zophar's question in v 7 is clearly "no". Yet ironically we get the impression that Zophar thinks that he himself can fathom the mysteries of God! In his arrogance, Zophar is not above making up sins for Job as Eliphaz will do in his final speech (Job 22:5-11)

2. Verse 11 and 12 are clearly directed at Job. What is Zophar alleging in these two statements?

3. Consider Zophar's four step solution in v's 13-20 and try to outline what he advocates. Is he right or wrong about what this will achieve?

PRAY: Strong beliefs of any kind can create strong emotions that can lead to sin. In your own evangelism ask God to give you patient, humble self-control.

WEEK 5: JOB 8-14

Day 4

READ JOB 12 & 13

Christopher Ash in a sermon on Job raises an important question. Is it possible to infer God's character and motives from the things that happen in life? No. Evil complicates the universe in unpredictable ways. Yet many are tempted to do this. Job believed in God's sovereignty but inferred from it that everything which happens reflects His character.

1. In v's 7-14 what primary attribute of God lies behind Job's complaint?

2. In v's 15-25 what various kinds of wrongs does he charge God with? Is there any truth in his claims? (remember what you learned during week 1 about God's sovereignty)

What was happening to Job didn't make sense to him so he longed to speak to the God he loved to find out what was going on. (Job 13:3) His complaint in chapter 13 flows from that confusion but unlike his friends he at least wanted to understand the truth.

3. In Job 13:4-12 what two related wrongs does Job allege against his friends?

PRAY: Unlike Job's friends, pray that we will never be guilty of falsifying the truth about God simply to make our case.

WHAT JOB AND HIS FRIENDS GOT WRONG!

Day 5

READ JOB 14

1. It sounds like a riddle but it's not! In v's 1-12 how are human beings both like and unlike the flowers and trees?
2. In v's 13-17 what is Job's hope?
3. Despite the expression of hope above, this chapter seems to end in despair. In what ways does Jesus fulfil Job's faint hopes?

PRAY: Pray for suffering friends that the certainty Jesus brings will be their comfort in confusion. Pray too that God will help you develop your hope so you're prepared for the days of trouble.

WEEK 5: JOB 8-14

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In Job 8 what does Bildad get right & what does he get wrong?
2. Job knows of God's sovereignty and justice but what wrong conclusions do these two truths lead him to draw? (see esp v 24)
3. How might knowing Jesus change the way we relate to a suffering believer?

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6: JOB 15-27

These chapters conclude the arguments of the friends with a whimper. Bildad's speech is brief and Zophar won't even bother. Nothing they said was able to move Job. His suffering was so greatly at odds with what he believed about God's government of the world - beliefs that were both true and false!

Week 6: Day 1

READ JOB 15-17

Aged Eliphaz you might remember, began gently (4:2-4) but now he casts gentleness aside and clings to tradition (15:10,18) instead of truth.

1. What true things does Eliphaz say in 15:14-35? (note again the time frame in which he believes God's punishments are experienced)
2. What true things does Job say about God in chap 16?
3. In what ways does Job's experience in chapter 17 remind you of Jesus?
4. Jesus is the great heavenly friend who fulfils 16:19-21. In what situations have you felt your greatest need for His intercession?

PRAY: Thank God that we have a great high priest who was made like us in every way. (Heb 2:17) He pleads our case so we can approach God's throne with confidence. (Heb 4:15,16)

WHAT JOB AND HIS FRIENDS GET RIGHT!

Day 2

READ JOB 18 & 19

The friends have long since ceased to listen and respond to anything Job has said. This is clearly the case with Bildad in chapter 18.

1. Verse 5 will give you a clue to Bildad's main point in this chapter. Try to summarise it. Is there anything new?

Chapter 19 reminds us again of the horror Job has endured. Close friends have forgotten him, (v 14) his breath offensive, (v 17) scorned and ridiculed by little boys (v 18), he is nothing but skin and bones (v 20). We can understand his plea for pity from his friends. (v 21)

2. In Job 19, what does Job say that is wrong and what does he say that is right?

3. The personal certainty and warmth of Job's language in v's 25-27 is a contrast to his friends. What does it tell you about him that encourages your own relationship with God?

PRAY: Job never loses his overwhelming desire- not for restoration of his wealth or even of his family but of his relationship with God. Pray for depth of conviction like this!

WEEK 6: JOB 15-27

Day 3

READ JOB 20 & 21

Zophar, like Bildad and Eliphaz before him, rather than responding to Job, simply tires both us and him out by stubbornly repeating his theology of retribution.

1. What true things does Zophar say in Job 20:4-29?
2. In what ways does Job's argument in 21:7-21 contrast with Zophar's in chapter 20? Is Job entirely right?
3. Job's point in 21:23-34 reminds you of Eccl 9:2,3. How does the resurrection of Jesus restore order in a broken world? (see Acts 17:30,31)
4. What do you think God found pleasing in Job's words and actions?

PRAY: Many today dislike the truth about God's judgement, but it does restore hope and meaning to life under the sun. Ask God to help you think rightly about His judgement.

WHAT JOB AND HIS FRIENDS GET RIGHT!

Day 4

READ JOB 22-24

Eliphaz raises a question in v 3. What would God gain if Job's ways were blameless? We know the answer from the prologue of the book where we were told that Job was blameless and that God took great pleasure in His "servant".

1. When Satan sought to tempt Jesus in Matt he mixed truth with lies. In 22:1-30 how does Eliphaz argue like Satan?

Eliphaz in 22:21-30 supplies a solution to Job's plight just like Zophar did in chapter 11 but again we, the reader, know from the prologue that Job's suffering isn't caused by his sin.

2. In chapter 23:1-7 Job longs to state his case before God. In v's 8ff, what makes this impossible for him?

3. In chapter 24 Job speaks of the suffering of the poor, caused by the wicked yet in his confusion he wrestles with two seemingly different conclusions.

- a. What is his complaint in v's 12-17?
- b. What is his apparent conviction in v's 18-25?

PRAY: Here's a warning we've noted before; if we judged God's character simply by what we saw in the world we'd end up in confusion since we, like the human characters in this book, can't see the total picture. Therefore pray for yourself and your church family that we don't judge by appearances.

WEEK 6: JOB 15-27

Day 5

READ JOB 25-27

With a final assertion of his faith, Bildad in frustration runs out of words as does Zophar, leaving Job with one last sarcastic reply!

1. Consider Bildad's question in v 4. Is there a way in which a mortal can be righteous before God?

Chapter 26:5-14 are such a sudden change of tone that some have attributed them to Bildad instead of Job. But Bildad has shown so little knowledge of God that they'd be out of place in his mouth.

2. Given that both passages below are Job's words, what do they reveal about the nature of his faith? Do you agree with what he says in each passage? Explain why or why not

- Job 26:5-14?

- Job 27:7-23?

3. In the strongest possible terms, Job concludes with an oath made in the name of God. Try to summarise his determined stance in 27:1-6. Is he right?

PRAY: It is important in our lives before God that we are honest with him and with ourselves. This was not true of the friends but it was of Job. Pray that it may be so with us.

WHAT JOB AND HIS FRIENDS GET RIGHT!

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In Job 19, what does Job say that is wrong and what does he say that is right? (Day 2)

2. When Satan sought to tempt Jesus in Matt he mixed truth with lies. In 22:1-30 how does Eliphaz argue like Satan? (Day 4)

3. What do you think God found pleasing in Job's words and actions? (Day 3)

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WISDOM AND WHERE TO FIND IT

What follows has been called an “interlude”. It is certainly a welcome break from the turbulent and often emotional interchange between Job and his friends.

Week 7: Day 1

READ JOB 28

1. In v's 1-12 the search for wisdom is likened to mining for precious minerals. What do these verses teach about the similarity between the two?

2. Try to summarise the point made in v's 13-27 about where wisdom can be found.

3. Verse 28 is deliberately set apart from the poem that precedes it. It is prose, not poetry. Try to paraphrase it. How is it demonstrated by Job?

PRAY: Wisdom is a precious gem! It is not easily mined nor is its origin from the land of the living. Pray that in knowing God He will grant it to you.

WEEK 7: JOB 28-31

Day 2

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31 & JAMES 3:13-18

The “wise man” is a theme which runs through the scriptures from Joseph and the Proverbs to Daniel and beyond but its culmination is in Jesus. He is the ultimate wise man and in the cross He reveals a wisdom which is at odds with the world.

1. What do you learn about the wisdom of God i.e. the wisdom of the cross in 1 Corinthians 1?

2. Why is it both important and kind of God “to shame the wise and the strong” v's 27-30?

3. The wisdom of God looks foolish and weak to the world so our temptation is to reject it. How can we safeguard ourselves against doing that?

4. What warning is most relevant to you in James 3:13-18?

PRAY: It needs humility to choose God’s wisdom over worldly wisdom. Ask God to grant you this?

WISDOM AND WHERE TO FIND IT

Day 3

READ JOB 29 & 30

The essence of true wisdom is to prioritise a right relationship with God. All else flows from this.

1. What is Job's great longing in 29:1-5? (see also 9:33; 10:2; 16:19-21)

The Satan's charge was that people only worship God for what they can get from Him. This was never true of Job as chap 19:1-5 showed.

2. In Job 29:6-25 list some of the blessings Job was aware he'd received from God.

Human wisdom always concludes that since God or the gods are sovereign, whatever happens simply reflects what God loves. The book of Job is at pains to say that this is not necessarily true.

3. In Job 30 how do Job's words make it clear that he thinks God is the cause of his suffering?

PRAY: Wisdom is needed during times of hardship to avoid inferring something evil about God's character from the injustice around us. Pray for this wisdom for yourself and others.

WEEK 7: JOB 28-31

Day 4

READ JOB 31

Throughout his ordeal Job sought to defend his integrity against the allegations of his friends. We know that he was right in this because God told us (Job 1:8 & 2:3) This lies at the heart of Job's anguish. He had come to believe that God rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked, therefore what was happening to him seemed so terribly wrong!

1. As you read this passage, find those verses which indicate what motivated Job's life.

2. List the sins Job mentions which if he had committed them, God might justly punish him.

3. In Job 31:35,36 what is Job's final desire?

PRAY: There will surely be times in life when our experience doesn't fit with what we know of God. Job, like Jesus experienced this. Thank God that Jesus knows our lot. Ask Him to uphold and show you His mercy if you ever feel that you can't hang on.

WISDOM AND WHERE TO FIND IT

Day 5

READ COLOSSIANS 2:1-10

In this passage there are deep connections between Jesus, wisdom and fullness.

1. Draw a “mind-map” or a diagram to show these.

2. Paul here repeats a thought from 1 Cor 1:30. In Jesus are “hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (v’s 2,3). If a non-Christian friend asked you, how would you explain what this means?

3. What clues does this give for growing in wisdom?

PRAY: Kingdom wisdom begins with knowing that God is the loving king who restores us in His Son. Praise Him for this & ask Him to make you wise.

WEEK 7: JOB 28-31

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In v's 1-12 the search for wisdom is likened to mining for precious minerals. What do these verses teach about the similarity between the two? (Day 1)

2. Why is it both important and kind of God "to shame the wise and strong" v 27-30? (Day 2)

3. In Jesus are "hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col 2:2,3). What clues does this give for growing in wisdom?

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8: JOB 32-37

What are we to make of Elihu? He is a young man- a Jewish man, the only one in the book. He comes at the end with a long and wordy speech- the introduction alone takes more than a chapter! But does he add anything? Although he thinks the other three friends have failed (32:3) and claims to bring something new (32:14), much of what he says seems to be a repeat so why listen to him? Here are a few reasons. Firstly, while God will rebuke the others, He doesn't do so with Elihu. Secondly, Job doesn't seek to refute him as he does with the other three friends. And thirdly, he does offer something new. It's not a complete answer- that will await God. And it's not all correct either. But at least in his beginning there's something new!

Week 8: Day 1

READ JOB 32

1. Apart from his wordiness, what else do you learn about Elihu in this chapter?

2. Why is he angry and is his anger right?

3. James 1:19,20 warns against human anger. Anger is not wrong (Eph 4:16) but how do we ensure that it doesn't get the better of us?

PRAY: If we're healthy Christians, there are times when we'll naturally want to defend God against the attack of others. Ask Him to help you learn to do this wisely and with righteous anger.

PIECES OF A BIGGER PICTURE

Day 2

READ JOB 33

1. In v's 8ff what correction does Elihu bring to Job?
2. What is God's motive in allowing suffering in these instances? (33:17ff)
3. Elihu mentions (v 15) God speaking in a dream or a vision but in what other ways might God warn a person to preserve them?

"The human spirit will not even begin to try to surrender self-will as long as all seems to be well with it...we can rest contentedly in our sins and in our own stupidities...but pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

C.S. Lewis

4. Can you think of a time when you've been disciplined by God? What did you learn from it?

PRAY: Thank God that "in all things He works for good with those who love Him..." (Rom 8:28) Pray that you will be a good and humble learner.

WEEK 8: JOB 32-37

Day 3

READ JOB 34-35

If Elihu started well, he doesn't continue in that vein for long. He begins to sound like the three friends. In these chapters consider what he says of Job and what he says of God. In each case, from what you know of each, is it true or false?

Verse	What he says about Job	T/F	Verse	What he says about God	T/F
34:5-9	Job claims to be innocent but isn't. He disrespects God (9:21-24)		34:10-17	God is incapable of evil (1 John 1:5, Hab 1:18)	
34:35-37	(Job 38:1,2)		34:20-30	(Ps 73:1-12,16,17)	
35:1-4	(Job 40:7,8)		35:5-8	(Ps 73:1,2,13)	
			35:9-16		

PRAY: Though we are selfish by nature, God is kinder in answering prayer than Elihu allows. Thank Him for His graciousness to you.

PIECES OF A BIGGER PICTURE

Day 4

READ JOB 36-37

Elihu has a big opinion of himself. (34:6) But he also shares the “retribution theology” of his friends which is like the prosperity gospel of today; Immediate punishment for evil & immediate reward for godliness. We’ve already seen that this is misguided.

1. Verses 1-4 are the introduction to Elihu’s fourth speech. His “retribution theology rant” begins in v 5. Where do you think it ends?
2. How would you summarise his final message to Job in chapter 36?
3. Job 36:26-37:24 seems to have one theme in mind. It serves as an introduction to God who in the next chapter will finally break his silence. Try to summarise this theme and its main point.

PRAY: The awesome nature and power of God invites us to humility before Him but humility never comes easily to sinful men and women. Pray that God will fill you with awe in these last chapters.

WEEK 8: JOB 32-37

Day 5

READ HEBREWS 2:10-18

Elihu's words are small pieces of a bigger picture. God uses suffering for good. That's true. Yet there is a mystery in suffering. As we've seen & will see next week, it has to do with the continued existence of the Satan and of evil. Hence it can't be understood apart from the suffering of Jesus and the accomplishment of the cross.

1. Jesus was made human in every way in order to experience suffering. What reasons did God have in this?

The prophecy of the servant in Isaiah 53 recognises that something in the experience of suffering is essential to the nature of evil and the only way to destroy that evil lies itself in the obedience of suffering!

2. The Satan is the accuser. Why do you think the suffering and death of Jesus destroys His power? (Consider also Col 2:14-16)

3. We wonder why God allows Satan's continued existence on this side of the cross. What partial answer is given in Heb 2:10,11,16,18?

PRAY: There is a mystery in suffering. Pray that in these last two weeks God will enable you to grasp it as firmly as possible so you can live a life of trusting obedience during the dark times.

PIECES OF A BIGGER PICTURE

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Apart from his wordiness, what else do you learn about Elihu in Job 33?
(Day 1)
2. In Job 33:8ff what correction does Elihu bring to Job? (Day 2)
3. Can you think of a time when you've been disciplined by God? What did you learn from it? (Day 2)

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WHAT WE LEARN WHEN GOD SPEAKS

In his early years the English playwright, George Bernard Shaw described himself as “an atheist, thank God!” In writing once about Job, he said cynically of God, that when challenged about His justice he needed to do better than telling us that He could make a hippo! What are these chapters about and how do they help in the question of suffering? Shaw would later admit that, when the world looked at him they saw “the tragedy of an atheist who had lost his faith.” He had underestimated God and the book of Job.

Week 9: Day 1

READ JOB 38:1-3; JOB 40:1-8 & JOB 42:1-6

Job demanded that God answer him (31:35) and now He does.

1. What does God charge Job with in these verses? Compare Job 40:1-8 with Job 42:1-6. What's the difference?

2. One clue that will help most of us read the bible well, is to compare translations. What does God mean in v 2 to “obscure my plans”? (hint: google the Amplified version)

3. Considering these two passages, what kind of sins might we commit that are of the same kind as Job?

PRAY: How easy it is to forget our place in the universe and think we know more than we do. Pray that God would grant us humility.

WEEK 9: JOB 38-41

Day 2

READ JOB 38-39

It is significant that God speaks from the storm. (v 1) In the Old Testament the storm is frequently an image of God's battle against chaos and evil. (Isaiah 29:5-8; Jer 23:19,20) We'll see why this matters later this week.

1. What different realms of God's creation are mentioned in these chapters?
2. What do you imagine is the intended impact of all these questions?

The many questions might seem aggressive but imagine them as statements instead. "You weren't there when I laid the earth's foundation." (v 4) Instead the questions draw Job in, reminding him as a godly man, what he knows to be true of God.

3. From Job 38:38ff God turns to the animals of creation. What is the point about God's character here?

PRAY: Paul in Romans 1 reminds us that the truth about God's divine nature is clearly seen in what He's made (Rom 1:18-20) Praise God for His goodness and pray that others whom you know may be drawn to the gospel of Jesus through this.

WHAT WE LEARN WHEN GOD SPEAKS

Day 3

READ JOB 40

While Job is moved to repentance by what he has already seen, something deeper awaits. Who is Behemoth (v 15) and why do he and Leviathan warrant special mention in these chapters? “Behemoth” means, the “superbeast”. Although he looks a bit like a hippo he doesn’t really fit any known species. In the ancient pagan world, animals sometimes represented various ‘gods’ and this imagery, so familiar to ancient world readers, was used on occasion in the bible.

1. In v’s 15-24 what features of Behemoth, a chaos monster, does God emphasise?

2. In v’s 9-14 God is pictured as a warrior who goes to do battle. What does He battle against? (see also v 19)

3. How does this chapter describe Behemoth’s relationship to God? (compare v 19 with the imagery of the Satan in Ezek 28:11-15)

PRAY: While God allows the continued existence of Satan and evil, they are no threat to Him. Praise God for His sovereignty and wisdom even if it leaves us with perplexing questions.

WEEK 9: JOB 38-41

Day 4

READ JOB 41

How did God pick the eight animals mentioned in chapters 38 & 39? It wasn't because of their impressiveness but because in the ancient world, they were all associated with the theme of chaos. like the storm out of which God speaks in 38:1. And like Behemoth in Job 40. But especially like Leviathan. We met him in Job 3:8. He features in God's final word today!

1. In the past Leviathan was often thought to be a crocodile. What features suggest that he is not?

2. Leviathan has been mentioned before in this book. His other name is Rahab. What can you find out about him in the following verses?

- Job 9:13 & Job 26:12,13
- Psalm 74:13,14
- Isaiah 27:1; Isaiah 51:9

3. Job 41 speaks of God's relationship with Leviathan & of our relationship. What can you find out about each?

- God's?
- Ours?

PRAY: Leviathan is one of the Old Testament images for evil and Satan. The warnings about him in this passage are for us. Pray that God will make you discerning and quick to turn away from evil.

WHAT WE LEARN WHEN GOD SPEAKS

Day 5

READ MATT 12:22-29 & REV 20:1-10

Leviathan the twisting serpent is another image for the Satan. Job 40 pictured God as a warrior who goes into battle to overthrow him. The demise of Satan (Leviathan) is assured yet for the sake of His own glory, God allows him to exist- for now!

1. In Matt 12, what does Jesus teach about the place of the Satan in His own mission?

2. What does Revelation 20:1-3 teach about Satan's situation now? (The clue to his binding was in Matt 12)

If we are unfamiliar with the apocalyptic literature of Revelation we'll be inclined to over literalize the symbols which are the distinctive feature of that book. The 1000 years of this passage are most likely one such symbol. It just means a long, but finite period of time.

3. What does Revelation 20:7-10 teach about Satan's future?

NOTE: Why would God allow Satan's continued existence? Check out the following by John Piper

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-does-god-allow-satan-to-live--2>

PRAY: Any child of God, like Job and like you, longs for an end to Satan and the temptations of this world. It's the work of the cross that binds him now & ultimately will destroy him when Jesus returns. Pray for that day to come soon!

WEEK 9: JOB 38-41

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Compare Job 40:1-8 with Job 42:1-6. What's the difference? (Day 1)

2. In the past Leviathan was often thought to be a crocodile. What features suggest that he is not? (Day 4)

3. Why would God allow Satan's continued existence? (Day 5)

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: JOB 42

A Christian friend told me that he never reads the Old Testament in general or Job in particular since it has “nothing to say about Jesus”. I hope you’ve seen throughout this series the importance of the New Testament as the final and infallible guide to reading the Old since every book of the bible is ultimately about Jesus (John 5:39). As we conclude Job this week it will be important to see how that truth plays out.

Week 10: Day 1

READ JOB 42 & JAMES 5:7-12

1. Try to divide Job 42 into 3 or 4 parts, creating a title for each.

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-
-

The context of James 5 is the “last days” (v 3,5,7,9) and in this light, his statement about Job is telling. It tells us what God finally brought about THROUGH His judgement. The clue is important for reading chap 42. Read it as God’s compassion and mercy in His FINAL judgement.

2. How might Job have experienced God’s compassion and mercy?

3. How might the friends have experienced God’s compassion and mercy?

PRAY: In our sinful self-centredness we often fail to see God’s mercy and compassion because we can prize the wrong things. Ask God to give you a heart for himself that will grow your insight.

GOD- HIS VERDICT AND MERCY

Day 2

READ JOB 42

In his frustration, Job at times spoke wrong about God yet he is commended at the end. Why? It will help us greatly in our relationship with the Lord to know the answer.

1. Compare 40:1-5 after God's first speech with 42:1-6 after his second. What's changed and why? Hint: Consider the content of the second speech on days 3-5 last week)

2. Job makes two key statements in 42:3b and 42:5,6. Try to put these into your own words. If you need help, try looking up another bible version.

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3. Job shows himself throughout to be a genuine believer and this is underlined at the end. How?

PRAY: Spend a moment reflecting on God's mercy to you in ways you may not have considered before. Give thanks to Him for this and ask Him to make you more sensitive to His compassion.

WEEK 10: JOB 42

Day 3

READ JOB 42:7-9

Job's friends never for a moment considered the possibility that he was righteous and that they were not. Yet in an incredible irony, that is what results when God comes to judge.

1. In verses 7-9, what things suggest God's acceptance of Job and His mercy to the three friends?

2. What's unusual about the way God brings about their forgiveness? People often ask, "Why should we pray if God already knows what we need?" What answer is suggested here?

3. "You have not spoken the truth about me as my servant Job has." In what respect had they not spoken the truth? Consider the following:

Wrong about grace, justice, delight, prayer, fatherly discipline

- God's justice (Job 4:7,8 cf Matt 27:46)
- God's grace (Job 4:17 ESV cf Rom 4:4,5)
- God's intercession (Job 5:1 cf Job 18:19, 20; Heb 4:15)
- God's pleasure (Job 22:3ff cf Job 2:3, Matt 3:17)

PRAY: Why strive to keep growing in your knowledge of God? There are so many reasons but here is another. We have a responsibility to represent God properly to others. Pray that this will be increasingly true of you.

GOD- HIS VERDICT AND MERCY

Day 4

READ JOB 42:10-17

1. God's blessing came to Job only through His judgement. Compare Job 1:1-3 and describe the nature of this blessing. (Note his age in the light of Gen 6:3)

2. Remember what James taught us about how to read Job on Day 1 this week? Consider what the New Testament says about our future blessing.

- Romans 8:18-21

- Ephesians 2:6,7

- Revelation 21:1-4

PRAY: Job's friends made their judgements, based on what they saw on this side of God's final judgement. Yet God warns us to "walk by faith not by sight". Pray that God helps you to do this.

WEEK 10: JOB 42

Day 5

READ JOB 42:10-17

It's a long book with a lot of poetry and although Jesus is never mentioned by name, Job is all about Him and the life of His people in a broken world. Job was never given the inside story of Satan's slur against God. In fact had he done so, Satan may have argued that his claim was true- people only worship God for what we get out of it. Yet God upheld Job's faith.

1. What can you learn about God, His truth and about living for Him from the book of Job? Here are some categories to help you think.

- True Worship
- Evil
- Suffering
- God's silence
- Care for the suffering
- The goodness of Jesus

PRAY: Give thanks to God for the book of Job and pray that God will help you grow through it

GOD- HIS VERDICT AND MERCY

FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Try to divide Job 42 into 3 or 4 parts, creating a title for each. (Day 1)
2. In verses 7-9, what things suggest God's acceptance of Job and His mercy to the three friends? (Day 3)
3. Job's reward comes in chap 42. What does James 5 say about how this chapter applies to us in the light of what Jesus has done? (Day 1)

Notes and Prayer Points

SELF HEALTH GUIDE

God’s grace is powerful. It brings security and optimism when we think we’re doing well and even when we think we’re not. And his grace will spur us on to grow. Growth can be hard. We’re not sure of the way ahead.

The following is a self-health guide. It’s for you to use privately. It’s between you and God. If you thought it measured how your Father looks at you, it could lead to a sense of legalism. But it doesn’t do that. Rate yourself 1 to 5 for each point, with 5 being high. Pick one or two to ask God’s help in.

Mission

	1	2	3	4	5
I am praying regularly for non-Christians friends to be saved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I take opportunities to speak to my non-Christian friends about the gospel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel confident that I could explain the gospel to someone who doesn’t know it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I prayerfully and financially support mission partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I make use of Grace Church events to help my friends by inviting them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Maturity

	1	2	3	4	5
I engage regularly with the Bible during the week outside church activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I intentionally make time for prayer throughout my week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am a regular participant with others in a group for Christian fellowship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Christian life and beliefs are evident to my friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I regularly confess my sins to God and seek to overcome them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Membership

	1	2	3	4	5
I value & prioritise church attendance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I take the initiative before & after church to welcome new people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am alert to opportunities at church and during the week to care for needy members of church	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SELF HEALTH GUIDE

- I initiate fruitful conversations with brothers and sisters to build them up
- I seek to show hospitality in a way that is consistent with my situation

Magnification

- 1

2

3

4

5
- I have a mindset that my daily life is about God’s glory
- In my relationship with God I regularly experience-gratitude, joy, repentance, forgiveness, satisfaction etc
- I feel equipped with practices & habits that help me relate with God during the day
- I know my example on a Sunday affects others so I seeking to encourage them in the way I listen, sing, talk etc
- I seek to worship God through the way I interact with others

Ministry

- 1

2

3

4

5
- I see all of my life as service and take opportunities outside church to serve others
- I serve regularly in a church ministry team and prioritise this in my planning
- I feel like I’m using my skills, gifts and time wisely for God’s kingdom
- The gospel drives me to serve as much as I can to further the kingdom
- I generally serve with humility and gladness

How are you feeling? Good because you think you nailed it? Depressed because you think you're failing? Consider this: *"...by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect..."*

1 Corinthians 15:10

Pick one or two things you want to grow in and ask God to help you:



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